

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**November 30, 2010****CONTACT:** Beth Phillips, beth.phillips@ttuhsc.edu
(806) 743-2143**Making Great Strides to Decrease the State's Nursing Shortage**

The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) School of Nursing increased its graduates by 79 students from 522 in 2009 to 601 in 2010, making it the number two producer of nursing school graduates in Texas, second only to Texas Woman's University in Houston, according to the recent Nursing Shortage Reduction Program report published by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Last year, the school expanded its traditional baccalaureate nursing program to the Permian Basin, El Paso and Abilene, to help combat the state's nursing shortage. In 2008, the school established a Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

TTUHSC President Tedd L. Mitchell, M.D., said he is pleased with the School of Nursing's leadership for meeting the state's nursing work force needs.

"I am proud of our School of Nursing for its diligence in addressing the major shortage of nurses facing Texas and the nation," Mitchell said. "With continued strides in this direction, Texas residents have a better chance to get the quality health care they deserve."

According to the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies, by 2013, more than 15,000 nursing graduates will be needed to meet the state's demand. Texas only produced 7,800 graduates in 2010, therefore, significant efforts need to be made at many levels to meet the 2013 target.

In addition to its graduation rates, the TTUHSC School of Nursing at Abilene recently has partnered with Sears Methodist Retirement System, Inc., to expand programs. Additionally, Texas Tech University System strives to establish a full-fledged health sciences center in El Paso in the future.

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